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D A I L Y K O R E A N B U L L E T I N

I. Military Operations

Army

Light enemy probes in squad and platoon strength were encountered across the Eighth Army front. The Communists continued harassing fire with mortar and artillery.

Navy

Naval air and surface units continued interdiction of enemy supply lines on both coasts.

Air

The Far East Air Force flew 781 sorties, of which 463 were combat. No airborne enemy planes were reported sighted or engaged. The bomber command flew 16 sorties in a shoran bombardment of a supply complex in north central Korea.

II. Military Intelligence

Ground

A fairly reliable Korean source has learned from contacts in east central Korea that Chinese Communist and North Korean troops are now being issued their summer uniforms. The source observes that since such issue is usually made in mid-May, this accelerated schedule, coupled with the supply and troop buildup, may foreshadow an offensive before 1 May.

(While this early issue of summer uniforms may well be related to recently detected signs of preparations for more intensive Communist military operations, it may also be routine. Recent reports have indicated relatively mild temperatures along the battle line.)

Antiaircraft Defense

The Far East Air Force reports that the enemy is continuing a significant redistribution of his antiaircraft defense weapons. The heavily defended main supply route from the Chongchon River south to Pyongyang (44 guns and 101 automatic weapons) lost nearly 50 percent of its protection during the last week in

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March and the first week of April. Similarly, Saamcham airfield in north-western Korea, once heavily defended, no longer has any significant antiaircraft defenses.

Much of this strength has been redeployed northward to protect the main rail lines leading from the Manchurian border into the Sinanju area. The Air Force comments that the most heavily defended areas now are those which recently were the targets of intensive UN fighter bomber attacks. (New antiaircraft artillery positions now being constructed in the Wonsan-Hamhung area in eastern Korea may be destined to receive some of this redeployed strength).

III. General Situation

Political

Radio Pusan on 11 April announced the dismissal of Acting Premier Ho Chong from the ROK cabinet. (Ho has been without official position since Premier Chang Myon returned from Paris. It is probable that Ho's sympathies for the opposition political party were behind his dismissal from the government.)

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